
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5001

AN ACT PROVIDING RENTAL COST RELIEF TO ELIGIBLE SENIORS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

SUMMARY:

This bill reopens the rental rebate program to new and previous applicants who meet the eligibility criteria. Current law makes a person ineligible for the rental rebate program if he or she (1) did not receive a grant from the program in 2011 or (2) received a grant in 2011, but not in any subsequent calendar year.

The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014

BACKGROUND

Rental Rebate Relief

Rental relief entitles qualified seniors and individuals with a total disability to a partial refund of rent and utility bills. An applicant must:

1. be totally disabled, be age 65 or older, have a spouse who is age 65 or older, or be at least 50 years old and a surviving spouse of someone who at the time of his or her death was eligible for the program;
2. occupy the property as his or her home;
3. have resided in Connecticut at least one year before applying for benefits; and
4. meet income qualifications (CGS § 12-170d).

The current qualifying income, with certain exceptions, is not more than \$20,000 for a married couple, or \$16,200 for a single individual.

Legislative History

The House referred the bill (File 76) to the Appropriations Committee, which reported a substitute that eliminates the file copy's appropriation of an unspecified sum in FY 15 to the Department of Housing, from the General Fund, for financial assistance to rental rebate program participants.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Aging Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 12 Nay 0 (03/11/2014)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 45 Nay 0 (04/08/2014)